

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

[0032] A method, computer readable medium and apparatus comprising a defect knowledge library (DKL), subscriber equipment and a communications network that connects the subscriber equipment to the DKL. The DKL contains a partitioned database of defect, defect source and defect mitigation information that is arranged by participating integrated circuit fabricator (referred to herein as a subscriber). The subscribers can identify the amount and type of information that they wish to share with other subscribers and whether their identity will be disclosed. The subscribers may share the data with specific "partners" or with other departments within their company, without sharing with other subscribers. The DKL system administrator charges a fee for the access rights. The more information that a subscriber shares with other subscribers, the lower the access fee. As such, subscribers are given financial incentive to share their information with other subscribers. Additionally, if a subscriber shares with others, then the other subscriber's data is made available to the sharing subscriber. As such, by sharing data, a particular subscriber has access to an expended library of DSI data without the need to accumulate the data themselves.